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# THE DAKOTA STUDENT

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## Enrollment numbers released

— Although there was a decrease in the number of incoming freshmen from last year, this student body is the largest in UND history.



This year’s freshmen at the Welcome Weekend pep rally. File photo of The Dakota Student.

By **Jamie Hutchinson**  
The Dakota Student

This fall semester, UND saw a slight decrease in enrollment from last year, but an increase in first-time freshman

academic abilities, student diversity and, for a few schools, a growth in student body.

The total number of students for this semester was 14,906 compared to last fall’s 15,143. However, this fall has the third-

highest enrollment in UND’s history.

Although last year saw a decrease of over 400 students from fall 2012, the number of first-time freshman this year remained relatively unchanged

compared to last year, with this semester’s total at 1,906. The university retained many students from last year.

“Eighty percent of our freshman class last year have continued this year,” UND spokesman

Peter Johnson said. This is an increase of five percent from last year.

This semester also made two university records, with

**ENROLLMENT**|page 3

# Red Pepper sets up shop in the Ralph

By **Megan Hoffman**  
The Dakota Student



The location of the new Red Pepper in the Ralph Engelstad Arena. Photo by Jennifer Friese/The Dakota student.

The “best late night food in America” is coming to the Ralph Engelstad Arena this year, and many people are looking forward to the food being available at hockey games.

The Red Pepper will be opening two stands at the arena for the upcoming men’s hockey season, behind section 111 and section 306. The legendary grinder sandwich will be available, as well as tostados, soft shell tacos, Mexi-burgers, hot dogs and chips and sauce. The Red Pepper stands will be taking the spots previously held by Subway in the arena.

The Red Pepper, with two locations in Grand Forks, has been popular with college students for decades due to its late-night hours and inexpensive food. The sandwich shop has been owned by the Tellman family since 1973, but the original store has been in Grand Forks since 1961.

“I think it’s probably a good thing,” UND senior Alexa Beauclaire said. “A lot of people will probably buy it. They will probably do good business at the games.”

The stands will be open in time for the first men’s hockey game on Oct. 5. There is also the possibility for the stands to be open for other events.

The Red Pepper officially announced the news on its Facebook page on Sept. 22. The post garnered more than 700 likes.

Megan Hoffman is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [megan.hoffman@my.und.edu](mailto:megan.hoffman@my.und.edu)



# Photos around campus



The Eternal Flame Statue at night (above) and University Avenue as seen from the top of the parking ramp (below). Photos by Jennifer Friese.



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Johnson's Barn Dance

Johnson's Barn Dance

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ENROLLMENT | 1  
FROM PAGE

the new freshman class having an average ACT score of 23.8 and an average GPA of 3.4 — both of which are the highest in UND’s history.

The academic success of this year’s freshman class and last year’s class may have something to do with UND’s increased admission standards.

Fall 2012 was the last year UND required a minimum GPA of 2.25 combined with a minimum ACT score of 22. Starting last fall, students with a high school GPA of 2.5 and an ACT score of 21 were automatically accepted, and students with a high school GPA of 3.5 could be accepted with an ACT score as low as 18.

Last year also marked the last time UND had provisional admits, Johnson said.

“Students will benefit from being in educational settings with other high achieving students who are focused on reaching their educational goals,” President Robert Kelley said last year in his annual State of the University Address. “We are also designing programs to identify at-risk students.”

The stricter admission standards aren’t meant to push students away, but to keep students who may have difficulties with



This year’s Freshmen at the Welcome Weekend pep rally. File Photo of The Dakota Student.

coursework from dropping out of school and then struggling to repay loans.

A message on UND’s website states that “admission standards for new students entering Fall 2016 or later are subject to change,” meaning the current standards will remain in effect for the next two years.

This semester’s enrollment report also showed an increase in ethnic diversity compared to

last year. That is the university’s most ethnically diverse freshman class.

“I think it’s good for the freshman class to be exposed to a diverse population,” Johnson said, adding that exposure to other cultures will only help students out after they graduate and start their professional careers.

The College of Engineering & Mines, the College of Nursing and Professional Development

and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences professional program all saw a growth in student body.


Johnson attributes part of this growth to the Health Care Workforce Initiative.

“That plan is to educate more medical doctors,” Johnson said.

Joshua Wynne, vice president for Health Affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, along

with other medical professionals in the state, put the plan together with the hopes that it would increase the number of medical professionals in North Dakota.

Jamie Hutchinson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at jamie.hutchinson.2@my.und.edu




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# COMMENTARY



The staff of the West House Hotel in New York City await customers with eager faces. Photo via Huffington Post.

## NPC's deserve your respect

Kjerstine Trooien

The Dakota Student



For those of you gamers out there, you'll immediately know what I'm talking about when I say NPC.

For those of you who have yet to embrace the art of gaming, let me explain.

In many games, there are characters you can play (the PCs, or playable characters) and characters you can't play (the NPCs or non-playable characters). Though the term NPC can apply to a character who is important to the PC or the storyline, usually NPC refers to background characters — characters like townsfolk and the shopkeepers in the Elder Scrolls series.

Games like "Assassin's Creed," "Dishonored" and so forth pretty much ignore NPCs. The NPCs are there to enrich the main character's environment. They are there to provide services like selling the character more ammo or even being a human shield depending on the type of game you are playing. They are not really even characters so much as human-shaped props.

However, the Elder Scrolls series, specifically the most recent installments of "Oblivion" and "Skyrim," turned each NPC into a character in their own right. They each have names.

They each have lives. In "Oblivion," for example you can find an NPC who has absolutely nothing to do with any quests or the main character sneaking out every couple of nights to sleep with another woman NPC.

So, I'll bet a bunch of you are wondering why I'm giving this textual lecture on NPCs. Well, I'm an NPC. Yes, I know, I'm not really

an NPC. I'm more than just code turned into pixels turned into pictures. I am flesh and blood, and a PC in my own life, but hear me out.

I work front desk in a hotel. I am an NPC for a paycheck. I have a "scripted" bunch of lines I repeat to each guest. I am there for them, at their every beck and call.

**I am an NPC for a paycheck. I have a "scripted" bunch of lines I repeat to each guest. I am there for them, at their every beck and call.**

Kjerstine Trooien  
*staff writer*

I've worked in the service industry before, too. Anyone who has ever worked in a "serve the customer" job can say (without much worry of being disputed) that we don't really "exist" to customers.

Think about it. Do you really know the name of the waiter who just introduced herself to you, or are you looking at your menu? Do you really think much about the fact that you're fifth on the list of people who want more pillows when you yell at the desk clerk for taking too much time to deliver them to your room? At a retail store, do you think about how much work goes into making the racks of clothing look pretty before you reach in and mess them up? When stuffing dollar bills in the stripper's thong, do you think much about how he is putting himself through law school?

Service industry workers are just as objectified as strippers. I

know that sounds like a really big claim, but think about it. Each of those workers are there to enrich your life, cater to your desires. We are your NPCs.

It gets even darker when you start thinking critically about it.

As a front desk clerk, I am selling a company. My face and my attitude are what can make or break the sale of a room or the return of a customer. The same goes for a restaurant worker or a sales associate. In a way, we are selling ourselves in our attitudes, appearances and actions.

I am not anywhere near as outgoing and charming in real life as I am at my job — I am outgoing and charming when on the clock because that is what I am selling: a hotel with a happy, friendly staff.

Each service industry worker is human, with their own lives and own wants and needs. Being the NPC to your PC at their jobs is only one facet of their incredibly complex lives. I'm not saying that you should ask every worker for their life story. I'm simply asking you to remember that we are not objects, not NPCs, but people too.

Yes, when we mess up at our job, you have a right to be upset. Yes, we know you don't really care much about our personal struggles. All I ask is that you acknowledge that we have them. I'm not asking you to try to change it all at once, but I am asking you to be aware of it. The first step of ending objectification is to be aware.

Acknowledge the worker and those around you as individual people, each with rich, colorful lives. It really is that easy.

Kjerstine Trooien is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [kjerstine.trooien@my.und.edu](mailto:kjerstine.trooien@my.und.edu)

## DSVIEW Separation

How can we separate ourselves from everything around us? Should we?

By Will Beaton

The Dakota Student

In the last couple weeks, a journalist was beheaded in Syria, a family home was torn to pieces by mortar shells in Eastern Ukraine, a woman in New York finally became pregnant after years of trying and a star exploded in the Andromeda galaxy.

And you probably took a test or something.

How can we have nightmarish torture scenes like the crucifixions of human beings in Raqqa existing at the same time as clicker-quizzes in the Scale-Up room? How does the sensation of a man feeling his spine being sawed apart happen at the same time as that annoyed feeling you got this week when some oblivious freshmen girls cut in front of your car on University Ave.?

It seems the only thing these events have in common is the fact that they exist. Is that weird?

As a student of ecology, I'm encouraged to see the connections between organisms and their environment in every class I take. But you don't need to be a scientist or a theologian to see there's literally no separation between "us" and "the world."

Seriously, how are you even reading this? Were you responsible for the development of your eyes? Do you know how you're having your thoughts? Do you really feel like the voice in your head you call "you" is made differently or with a different motive than are the meanders in the coulee?

The only thing telling us we're separate from the swirling, cosmic craziness that is reality is ourselves.

Smart people look at an atom and think, "There's a positive part and a negative part, and they repel and attract each other in certain, measurable ways; it makes sense to me."

But "positive" and "negative" are just words we use to describe their behavior so we can talk about it. Remove the labels, and you're looking at the most inexplicable, spontaneous, unhuman-like piece of reality imaginable — and that's what makes up every inch of "human culture."

I'm not putting down humans to the level of barbaric, random electron collisions. I'm raising all of that up to show you that anything that is as beautiful, outstanding and worth your time as what you have rattling around in your head today. Think about it long enough, and you'll see that all that is is you.

We see with our eyes, but we never see what's behind them; we experience life through our bodies, but we never actively feel the whole thing.

A blind man knows the rest of him is alive; "the rest" of a dead man goes on as it always had, too.

The late philosopher Alan Watts — a cult hero reanimated in thousands of user-made Youtube videos today — often said the delusion of separation our society is under is infinitely more treacherous and misinformed than what any amount of LSD or psilocybin mushroom could produce.

"We all know very well that after other people die, other people are born," he wrote. "You are all of them. And when they come into being, that's you coming into being."

It doesn't feel like it, I know. You don't actively feel their human sensations day-to-day.

But that's okay, because you are not a human — you're the whole Is-ness, going along. You're just fine with not feeling your bones grow; why is that a part of "you" and not the rest?

### Editorial Board

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> Letters must be typed and must include the author's name, major or profession and telephone number.  
> All letters will be edited to fit the allocated space. Writer may be limited to one letter per month.



# Measure six poses threat to the children of North Dakota

Mike  
Rauser



The Dakota  
Student

Everyone has been talking about Measure 1, and they certainly should be. But there's another measure on the ballot this Nov. that is just as important.

It's called Measure 6. It claims it will create a presumption that each parent is a fit parent entitled to be awarded equal parental rights and responsibilities by a court unless there is clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

I wish people could realize right away what a bad idea this is, but there are some that actually think this bill is a good thing. Allow me to explain why I think they're wrong.

First of all, making an assumption that a parent is a fit parent on the sole basis that they have a kid is not a logical assumption to make.

How many stories have we heard about physical and sexual abuse, ei-



Photo via Huffington Post

ther done by or allowed by parents? Or how about parents that might not be legally unfit, but are just terrible parents in general?

Just because somebody has a kid does not mean they should. There are plenty of terrible parents out there, and most times we don't find out about it until the abuse has been going on for years and years, if we ever find out at all.

That right there is my main problem with this measure. It forces the parents who actually do have concern for their children to be on the defensive. Now, during a custody battle, they may have to go through a lengthy and painful process to prove

that the other parent is unfit, while the other parent, even if they are a terrible parent, automatically gets legal protection until it is clearly and convincingly proved otherwise.

The supporters of this measure claim there are plenty of good parents out there whom the system occasionally fails, and while this is true, it is nothing short of pure idiocy to simply assume from the beginning that all parents are good parents.

One of the arguments in favor says that mothers tend to be favored by the courts, and the fathers often tend to be cut out of the picture entirely. That may happen, but this measure is not the way to address the problem.

This measure has the same problem as Measure 1 in that it is so poorly worded that it could have dire, unforeseen consequences that the legislatures never considered.

Another problem with this bill is that it shifts all the focus to the par-

ents. However, the parents shouldn't be the focus of this. The real focus should be the children.

It claims to be defending children, supporters of it claim that cutting one of the parents out of their life is a bad thing, but I believe this is a bad assumption to make universally.

Sometimes some parents need to be cut out, because they don't deserve to have kids in the first place, sometimes it's not actually feasible for both parents to have equal parenting simply because of location. Sometimes both parents shouldn't have the same influence.

This goes back to what constitutes legally unfit. Sure there is physical and emotional abuse (although given our court system's track record with catching that in time, good luck proving that "clearly and convincingly" in court).

But what about other less tangible negative effects?

The fact of the matter is that

some parents should just not have children, even though they might not fit the legal definition of unfit.

This bill is overly idealistic and impractical since it assumes that we live in a better world than we do.

Trust me, I would love to live in a world where we could just automatically assume that anyone with a kid was a good parent. You and I both know this is not the world we live in.

Consider Adrian Peterson, for example, a parent who beat a four year old to the point of drawing blood and isn't even sorry about it. He's certainly sorry that people are paying attention to it, but he thinks this is a normal thing to do.

In a world where people like that exist, are we honestly supposed to assume from the beginning that all parents are fit parents?


Admittedly, in the Adrian Peterson case, it would be easy to prove he was an unfit parent and should not ever be allowed near children. But sometimes it's not that easy.

When you go out to vote this November on Measure 1 (which I hope you do) you should also consider Measure 6 and the potential implications.

Mike Rauser is a staff writer for The Dakota Student.  
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## Banning books for safety

Alex  
Bertsch



The Dakota  
Student

As many of you may not be aware, last week marked Banned Books Week, a week long holiday in which we celebrate the storied history of banning books that have made us uncomfortable or deviated from social norms.

To celebrate this proud tradition of censorship, the Highland Park Independent School District in Dallas removed several books from its required reading lists amid complaints from parents that the books contained explicit sex scenes that made them very uncomfortable.

The books were "The Art of Racing in the Rain," by Garth Stein, "Song of Solomon," by Toni Morrison, "Siddhartha," by Herman Hesse, "An Abundance of Katherines," by John Green, "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," by Sherman Alexie, "The Glass Castle," by Jeannette Walls and "The Working Poor: Invisible in America," by David Shipler.

I couldn't be more impressed with the action that was taken by by Superintendent Dawson Orr in dealing with this matter. The courage that he must have possessed to react to the obvious attempts by these authors to corrupt the youth of this country was more than most men could handle.

Alas, some of these authors are still attempting to keep their agenda a secret. Jeannette Wells told the Dallas Morning News that, "My book has ugly elements to it, but it's about hope and resilience, and I don't know why that wouldn't be an important message."

However, what Wells refuses to tell you is that her and her fellow authors' true purpose is to transform the youth of this country into sexu-

ally driven machines to produce children to feed the armies of their new communist revolution.

However, this story doesn't come with the happy ending of the far-seeing superintendent stopping the evil authors from corrupting our youth, as even now some unwise and uneducated parents in the district are organizing to have the bans revoked. Little do these parents know, they're playing right into the hands of the authors' diabolical plan. These parents truly believe the only reason these books are being banned is that they present students with challenging material.

One such naive parent, Laurie Steinberg, told the Dallas Morning News "These books could have the potential to make some people uncomfortable, but ... our children need to be exposed to different ideas and ways of life for others. We're doing a disservice to our students if we don't broaden their minds and let them know more about the outside world."

Little does she know that if we were to "broaden" our children's minds, we will only open them up to the corruption that these authors seek to ingrain in them.

The most terrifying part of this whole story is the potential implications that will come if these parents were to accomplish their goal of lifting these bans. We will see small children being taught the anarchist manifesto that is Dr. Seuss "Hop on Pop," or the radical animal rights testament that is "Go, Dog. Go!"

I encourage everyone who sees a child reading any of this filth to rip it out of their hands and burn it immediately like any sensible person would. This may be the only way to stop these authors from corrupting the youth of our nation and killing all that we recognize as America the land of censorship and the home of the wholesome sheltered education.

Alex Bertsch is the Opinion Editor of The Dakota Student.  
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## Earthcycle brings biking to campus

Maggie  
Upton



The Dakota  
Student

If you have not dusted off that bike yet, it's time to do so. Summer is over and fall seems to already be entering its last hurrah before the bone-chilling breezes waft into Grand Forks. Why not spend a few extra hours outside while you still can for both the betterment of your health and the environment. Earthcycle (pronounced Earth-Sickle) is nearing the close of its month long competition (Sept. 8 to Oct. 5) at UND.

Although the main focus of Earthcycle transportation is biking, you can also participate by way of walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, or if snows by October 5th, cross-country skiing. Any type of transportation that is muscle and not gas powered works.

UND Professor and advocate for the Earthcycle, Jaakko Putkonen, sums up the best reason for all to participate in the event.

"In addition to making you feel good right from the get go in the morning, the main idea behind the event is to make the world a little greener," she said. Burn a little less gas, ease the congestion, and improve your own health while doing it."

On the website where each participant logs their hours, a tracker containing total monthly and lifetime mileage and pounds of CO2 saved is updated with

each ride entry.

According to Livestrong.com, the average rider bicycling 10 to 11.9 mph (regarded as a "light effort") burns about 47 calories per mile if you weigh 190 pounds, about 38 calories per mile if you're 155 pounds, or about 32 calories per mile if you're 130 pounds. Grand Forks is a fairly small town, so most people don't

**It could easily clear chest congestion, get blood flowing to your lungs and heart, and wake you up**

Maggie Upton  
*staff writer*

have far to go to get to their classes, but over a few weeks a mile here and there will surely add up and be beneficial to yourself and the atmosphere.

The extra exercise you will get from riding a bike to and from work, school, or activities would benefit your physical and mental health. If you are feeling kind of crummy from the fall colds circulating around campus or if it is nice outside and you are staring out the window instead of working on petrology homework, why not take a break and go for a bike ride. It could easily clear chest congestion, get blood flowing to your lungs and heart, and wake you up, so you can return to your homework conscious and with fresh motivation to keep on keepin' on with those tedious mi-

croscope lab details.

The act of deforestation and combustion of fossil fuels has increased the amount of carbon dioxide (the highest concentrated greenhouse gas) within Earth's atmosphere, and is the main greenhouse gas emitted by human activity. Excess amounts of this gas in the atmosphere can lead to health problems brought on by breathing in smog and environmental damage to plants and structures with acid rain. By reducing your use of transportation via car, you will be emitting less hazardous gases into the air as well as saving on the cost of gas money.

You can still register to track bike miles ridden as a solo member or as part of a team and competition. Currently, the top three competing department teams involved in the UND Earthcycle 2014 competition are Atmospheric Sciences (563 miles), Geology & Geological Sciences (622 miles) and Aerospace Studies (521 miles).

Even though the campus wide competition may be nearly over, there are still many reasons to participate in this international movement year round. All you need to do is register with greenlightride.com and log your bike rides with the web site. If you would still like to join the competition, contact Jolene Marsh or Jaakko Putkonen at the Harold Hamm School of Geology and Geologic Engineering.

Maggie Upton is a staff writer for The Dakota Student.  
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India Night a showcase of culture at UND



NICHOLAS NELSON | THEDAKOTASTUDENT

Priyanka Roy, Promisree Choudhury and Dasuni Jeewandlka dance at India night on Thursday night in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

By Ashley Carlson  
The Dakota Student

From the captivating music to the talented dancers and intricate clothing, India Night was an entertaining program from start to finish. The annual event drew in a large crowd, packing the ballroom at Memorial Union on Thursday night.

The event, previously held in the Loading Dock, had to move to fit the crowd that has grown larger every year.

The audience came ready to experience India’s rich culture with music, dancing, food and trivia.

“All of the credit goes to the students,” advisor of the Student Association of India Sharlette Sedan said. “They’re the ones that put it all together.”

After a few technical difficulties with the sound system, the night started off with a traditional Indian dance to welcome the audience.

“We’ve been practicing for about two months,” dancer Promisree Choudhury said. “We aren’t professionals, so we put a lot of time into it.”

The three dancers, Priyanka Roy, Promisree Choudhury and Dasuni Jeewandlka, came on the stage wearing ornate clothing made in India for the performance. After making multiple calls to the clothing maker about fittings and details, the bright red and cream ensembles, covered with sequins and flowers made a beautiful impact to the dance.

“This is the first year we did matching outfits,” Choudhury said. “We usually all dress differently.”

After the dance, president Aditya Arora came on to the stage to welcome

the audience, saying “Namaste,” which he explained is a mixture of hello, welcome and good day.

The next dance performance, showcasing the different regions of India featured Arora along with Harpa Lind and other dancers.

They captivated the audience, dancing to mostly traditional Indian music. A surprise came when they mixed in a beat from “Thrift Shop” by Macklemore. They also brought in saaps, which are wooden props used by Bhangra dancers to create a clapping sound.

Surprisingly, not all of the performers and members of the Student Association of India are actually from India. Harpa, a graduate student from Iceland, has been a member of the association for a number of years because she is an admirer of the Indian culture. Another member of the association is from Saudi Arabia.

“We really wanted to bring awareness of India’s culture to students and the community,” Arora said. “And (we) are very pleased with the turnout.”

Perhaps one of the best parts of the evening was the food, featuring authentic Indian cuisine that was served at the end of the performances. The menu included veg samosa, naan, aloo gobi masala, chicken tikka masala, peas pulao and mango cake.

“I wanted to learn more about the Indian culture, and I really liked seeing all of the different outfits with all of the bright colors,” UND junior Leah Schiller said. “And the food sounded really good.”

Ashley Carlson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [ashley.m.carlson@my.und.edu](mailto:ashley.m.carlson@my.und.edu).



Photos from UND’s India night. Photos by Nicholas Nelson/The Dakota Student.



# Toasted Frog, a different kind of bar

By Colin Johnson  
The Dakota Student

The Toasted Frog lounge and restaurant — for those 21 and up — was packed with Grand Forks community members last week. Toasted Frog has been

around since May 2006 and is a slightly more upscale restaurant than what you would typically find in Grand Forks. It is located near the Minnesota border, adjacent to Joe Black's. Normally at the Toasted Frog, customers would have

to wait around 45 minutes to be seated, but my party of six made reservations ahead of time and got seated right away. The atmosphere of the restaurant was inviting. Right away, our server greeted us and introduced us to the dif-

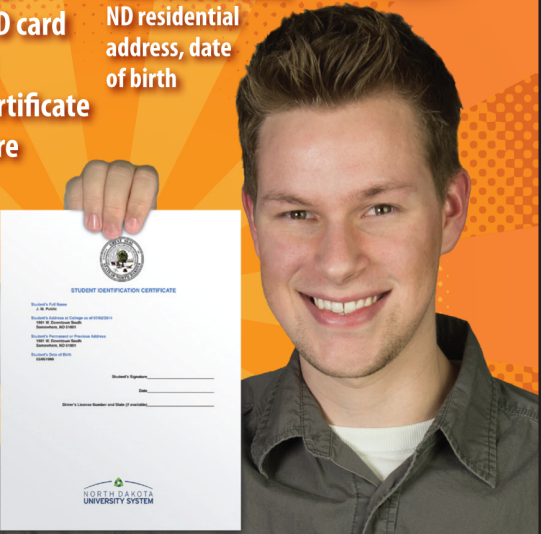
ferent selection of available wines and what they should be paired with. Its menu is limited in items but still has something for everyone — soups and salads to seafood and steak. I first ordered an appetizer of fried pickles for the table.

They consisted of egg roll wraps filled with dill pickle spears, havarti, a mild semi-soft cheese and topped with a sriracha ranch sauce. They were delicious and enjoyed by the entire table.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## FROG 8

FROM PAGE

For my entree, I ordered the walleye picatta, a filet of walleye, dusted in flour with capers, shallots, garlic, lemon juice, butter and grilled vegetables.

I chose the wasabi garlic mashed potato as my side, as recommended by our server.

They were good, but a little too spicy.

I was a bit skeptical about the capers, which is the flowering bud of the caper bush, usually paired with Mediterranean dishes. However, having a slightly salty and citrus taste, it went well with the walleye.

Overall, I enjoyed my meal, and it was even better that I didn't have to wait to be seated.

I would rate the Toasted Frog a five out of five stars,

because every dish was perfection and the environment and service was superb.

For anyone who has not tried the Toasted Frog before but who enjoys delicious and well thought dishes, I highly recommend eating here.

Colin Johnson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at [colin.m.johnson@my.und.edu](mailto:colin.m.johnson@my.und.edu)

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## COURT | 12

FROM PAGE

She played basketball for one year at Williston State College, but not at UND or Yale.

"It's one of my biggest regrets,"

she said. "I should have. I was just too insecure. I still had three years of eligibility left ... I was just insecure. It took me a long time to really realize I was as smart or as good as the people I was working with.

"I think that's a little bit of North Dakota. We're sort of taught not to think too much of ourselves. Your greatest strength is your greatest weakness. Modesty is good, but sometimes self-confidence suffers."

After graduating from Yale Law School in 1992, Christofferson saw Los Angeles and Minneapolis as the most progressive places to practice law at the time. She chose the coast.

Between litigating the rights to Winnie the Pooh for 10 years and a chance to represent Christina Aguilera, Christofferson's experiences with law in the entertainment industry quickly became one of her passions.

### Buying the team

Her growing connections led her and her best friend to discover their way toward the Lakers' attorney when they decided they wanted to buy the Sparks.

They put together a pitch and delivered a proposal to the organization that instigated new ownership of the Sparks in 2006.

The new co-owners spent the

next nine months raising funds and embarked on what would be the most challenging step of their careers.

"Maybe it's my North Dakota background, but that was, by far, the hardest, worst thing I've ever done in my life," Christofferson said. "It was just painful every day."

There were days Christofferson wanted to quit. She wanted nothing more to abandon what had been a dream of hers just a short time ago.

Because there were two of them, they incorporated their values into their work and persevered until they were standing in the Staples Center as owners as the Sparks began another season.

Then they had to figure out what to do with the team.

Extensive market research led the duo to believe their fan base was much different than the NBA Lakers team, and with 65 percent of the seats occupied by women and families, marketing toward

the right crowd was crucial. Finding the right employees also was a deadlock.

"One of the things we had the hardest time with was hiring people," Christofferson said. "People came to us because they wanted to be in sports. We needed people who wanted to be in a startup — they're different."

Funds were mainly driven by ticket sales and sponsorships, and newly born mascot, "Sparky the Dog," brought fans a greater sense of community.

"They bring him gifts at the end of the season, and I'm like, 'You know it's a guy in a dog suit, right? He doesn't actually want biscuits,'" Christofferson said with a laugh.

He took them anyway, and by the end of the third year, with the duo's ownership, Sparks fans in the stadium rose from 4,000 to 10,000 eager enthusiasts.

### Moving forward

In February 2014, Christofferson and Goodman left the Sparks with new owners after years of facing new challenges, and discoveries that led them to push themselves further than they thought they'd go.

Christofferson continues to practice law with a firm in Los Angeles that's older than her hometown of Tolna. With over 30 years of experience under her belt, she now does corporate work for various well-known businesses with a background she's proud of.

"Being someone from North Dakota, it's amazing how much is equated with honesty and hard-work," she said. "When I left, I didn't realize that and didn't bring it up. What I realize now is it's my greatest strength."

But the piece of advice that's driven her speaks contrary to the North Dakota attitude of keeping her head down in humility.

"Keep your eyes open."

Elizabeth Erickson is the sports editor of The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [eilizabeth.e.erickson@my.und.edu](mailto:eilizabeth.e.erickson@my.und.edu)

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## LOSS | 12

FROM PAGE

best offenses in the Big Sky Conference.

The Bobcats had been averaging 40.2 points a game coming into Saturday's bout, but UND held them to 26 points. Montana State also had averaged 453.8 yards a game, and the Green and White kept this offensive juggernaut to a tame 329 total yards. They also held the Bobcats to just three total points in the second half.

Will Ratelle continued to show why he is one of the captains of this team. The junior was held to nine tackles for the game, but he came up big in the second quarter. Ratelle started the scoring for UND by returning a fumble 21 yards. This marked the second week in a row North Dakota's defense scored off a turnover.

Even though the offense struggled to get anything going in the first half, it finally showed some signs of life in the second.

The skill positions had a good day, as redshirt freshman Kyle Norberg rushed for 73 yards on 19 carries (3.8 yards per carry). R. J. McGill also had a career high seven receptions for 63 yards and a touchdown.

Joe Mollberg had a fine day on the field. While he did struggle in the first half like the rest of the team, Mollberg ended with a season high 222 yards passing off of 22-37, including a touchdown pass.

"I thought we came out in the second half and played much better, especially in the fourth quarter," Schweigert said. "We just have to play smarter and avoid some of those costly mistakes. Those really hurt us today."

Though UND had its struggles in the first half, the team seemed to be able to show the trait they have been showing for a majority of the season — resiliency.

This team competed with one of the highest scoring offenses in the Big Sky. While the score may not show it, this game was hard fought and closer than the 11 point spread.

The Green and White's schedule does not get any easier, though, with Montana coming into town next weekend.

"I hope that fourth quarter gives us some confidence and some momentum, but it's another week, it's all going to be in our preparation," Schweigert said. "It's going to be great to be back home. Our guys seem to feed off of the crowd a bit when we were at home, but we know we have a tough job ahead."

Alex Stadnik is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at alex.stadnik@my.und.edu

## SKATE | 12

FROM PAGE

**We're moving in a direction where we have some kids that are offensive, but are defensive at heart.**

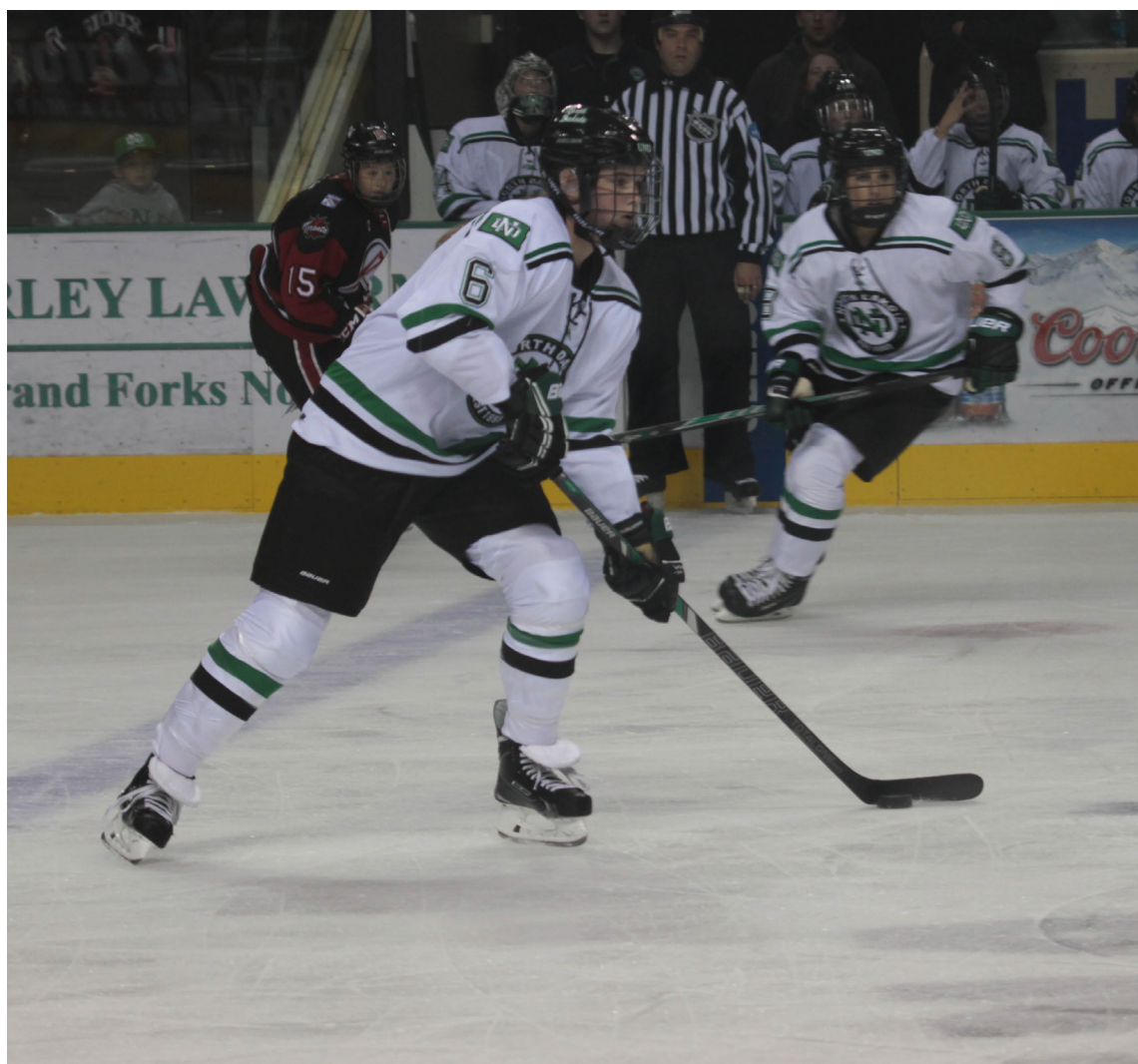
Brian Idalski  
UND coach

Dufault skated in 31 games last year, scoring 28 points — 12 goals and 16 assists. Dufault came up clutch, scoring four game-winning goals. Also known for her strong defensive effort on the penalty kill, she added three shorthanded goals last season, two in the same period against Bemidji State.

Idalski was not afraid to try some new things against the Aeros. Hirschy, a sophomore that normally plays defense, was put on the left wing. She scored the first goal of the game with a feed from Marissa Salo, and added another 24 seconds later.

"Let's just say that Gracen is a hybrid," Idalski said. "We're moving in a direction where we have some kids that are offensive, but are defensive at heart."

Hirschy led the UND de-



UND sophomore Gracen Hirschy controls the puck Saturday night at Ralph Engesltd Arena, where she tallied two goals. Photo by Jennifer Frieze/The Dakota Student.

fense in points last year with 22 and collected a plus/minus of +19 — the seventh best in the NCAA.

One question mark this season is goaltending. Both goalies from last year are returning, but

neither have solidified themselves as No. 1.

Shelby Amsley-Benzie lead her team to 14 wins and Lexie Shaw won six of her contests.

While the team is still discovering its fittings, Saturday

night proved a good indication of a successful season.

Kyle Beauchamp is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at kyle.beauchamp@my.und.edu



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# Women score first exhibition victory

— Gracen Hirschy, Shannon Kaiser each tally two goals en route to 9-1 win Saturday night

By Kyle Beauchamp  
The Dakota Student

It may only have been an exhibition game, but the UND women's hockey team found excitement when it defeated the Toronto Jr. Aeros 9-1 on Saturday night at Ralph Engelstad Arena.

"The game was sloppy to begin with, but some of the concepts we've been talking with, and some of the things we've been working with, I thought we executed fairly well," UND coach Brian Idalski said of the team's efforts.

The game was an offensive explosion as Gracen Hirschy and Shannon Kaiser both scored two goals, and Leah Jensen tallied one and added three assists.

For a team that relied heavily on its offensive attack last year, this came as no surprise. The squad went 20-12-4 last year, scoring 96 goals.

The women return their two leading scorers from last year — Josefine Jakobsen and Meghan Dufault.

In her junior year, Jakobsen led the team with 33 points, 14 goals and 19 assists while posting seven multi-point games. She also led all forwards in plus/minus ratings with +18.

Her defensive play went noticed, leading the nation with 87 blocked shots. Jakobson was named to the All-WCHA third team.



JENNIFER FRIESE | THEDAKOTASTUDENT

Kayla Gardner skates at the Ralph Engesltad Arena on Saturday night against the Toronto Jr. Aeros.

SKATE | page 11

## Win-streak continues



JENNIFER FRIESE | THEDAKOTASTUDENT

Lexi Robinson spikes the ball Saturday afternoon at the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center.

The UND women's volleyball team defeated Idaho State in a heated five-set match Saturday afternoon (16-25, 25-8, 25-27, 25-17, 20-18) and extended its home winning streak to nine games.

## Former Sparks owner reflects

— UND grad finds success in sports

By Elizabeth Erickson  
The Dakota Student

Carla Christofferson moved from her small-town high school gymnasium in Tolna, N.D. to courtside seats at a WNBA Los Angeles Sparks game with her good friend Kathy Goodman. She gazed at thousands of empty seats that awaited fans of the top women's basketball players in the country, thinking of how differently she would run the organization if she was the owner.

So, she bought the team. "It was so counter to the image it was supposed to be, which is women who are the best in the world at basketball," Christofferson said. "These are the best in the world — and so one day I turned to Kathy and I was like, 'Why can't we buy the team; how hard can it be? Let's just try.'"

With what Christofferson viewed as an "add-on" to the Lakers organization, she turned into a reflection of motivation for role-model seekers and the community.

But before she became the owner of a sports team, Christofferson spent her early years learning the values of a North Dakota upbringing that led her to a successful career. After

spending two years at community college in Williston, N.D., she made the move to UND and collected the title of Miss North Dakota the same year she graduated in 1989.

She was only at UND for two years, and with an uncertain future, she used the \$500 in her bank account to apply to 10 law schools. Each had a \$50 application fee.

When she was on stage at the Miss North Dakota pageant and asked about her future plans, she said she was going to Yale Law School — one of the schools she was accepted to — but she still hadn't made her final decision of which school.

She had just informed the whole state where she would be attending law school, and there was no turning back.

### Playing on the court

As with the culture of small North Dakota towns, sports became an escape. Christofferson played basketball and with various other teams in high school. She was passionate about basketball, but it was sports in general that pushed her forward.

It was also what held her back.

COURT | page 10

## Bobcats drive away chances

— UND falls to Montana State on Saturday, 29-18

By Alex Stadnik  
The Dakota Student

The Green and White looked to start their Big Sky season off with a bang this weekend in Bozeman, but instead left disappointed.

UND lost to Montana State 29-18.

While the result is not what the team wanted, there are some

positives to be pulled out of the weekend.

First and foremost, this game was closer than the score tells.

The Bobcats played extremely well on offense and defense during the second quarter of the game. Whether it was an interception returned for a touchdown, or the offense running the ball in for a score, MSU was clicking on all cylinders. After the second

quarter was over, Montana State was winning 26-7.

"This one got away from us in the second quarter," UND coach Bubba Schweigert said. "That's what got us."

Other than the second quarter, UND's defense played extremely well against one of the

LOSS | page 11

scores & schedules

WSOC, Oct. 3  
vs. Idaho State  
Pocatello, Idaho

WHKY, Oct. 3  
vs. RPI  
Ralph Engelstad  
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VB, Oct. 3  
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